

Attorney's Docket:

DEC 29 2003 024791.0110

1-2-04

PATENT  
USSN 10/649,554

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Michael E. Valant, et al.  
Serial No. 10/649,554  
Filing Date: August 25, 2003  
Art Unit: 2856  
Title: **POWDER DELIVERY SYSTEM AND METHOD**

**MAIL STOP**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

<b>EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE</b> <b>NO.: EV 323456370 US</b>	
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
Name:	<u>Willie Jiles</u> Willie Jiles
Date:	<u>12.29.03</u>

EV323456370US

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Applicants respectfully request, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, that the references listed on the attached PTO-1449 form be considered and cited in the examination of the above-identified patent application. Copies of these references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner. Furthermore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), no representation is made that these references qualify as prior art or that these references are material to the patentability of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted before an Office Action on the merits, and therefore, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no fee is believed to be due. If, however, a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
Attorneys for Applicant



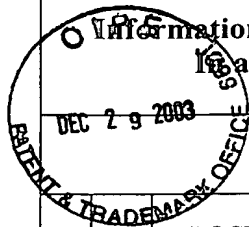
Thomas A. Beaton  
Reg. No. 46,543

Date: 12/29/03

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number: **05073**  
Attorney Docket No.: 021791.0110

PTO-1449	Application No. <b>10/649,554</b>	Applicant(s) <b>Valant et al.</b>	
	Docket Number <b>021791.0110</b>	Group Art Unit <b>2856</b>	Filing Date <b>Aug. 25, 2003</b>



## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
A	6,391,251	05/21/02	Keicher et al.	419	7	05/09/2000
B	6,580,959	06/17/2003	Mazumder	700	121	05/19/2000
C						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
D							

	DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title, Source, and Pertinent Pages)					DATE
E	B. Grünenwald et al., "New Technological Developments in Laser Cladding", Proceedings of the International Congress on Applications of Lasers and Electro-Optics (ICALEO 1993), pp. 934-944.					1993
F	Lli et al., "Sensing, Modelling and Closed Loop Control of Powder Feeder for Laser Surface Modification", Proceeding of the International Congress on Applications of Lasers and Electro-Optics (ICLEO 1993), pp. 965-974.					1993
G	F. Meriaudeau et al., "Acquisition and Image Processing System Able to Optimize Laser Cladding Process", From the Proceeding of ICSP '96, Laboratoire GERE - Université de Bourgogne, France, pp. 1628-1631.					1996
H	William H. Hofmeister et al, "Video Monitoring and Control of the Lens Process", Proceedings of AWS 9th International Conference on Computer Technology in Welding, 1998, pp. 187-196					1998
I	Ivan S. Kmecko et al., "Influence of Geometrical Factor on Heat Transfer Rate During GTAW for Welding-Based Deposition", Proceedings of Free Symposium on Nontraditional Manufacturing Research and Applications, the 2001 International Mechanical Engineering Conference, Nov. 11-16, 2001., New York, N.Y., (9 pages)					2001
J	D. Hu et al., "Improving Solid Freeform Fabrication by Laser-Based Additive Manufacturing", Research Center for Advanced Manufacturing, Southern Methodist University, Richardson, Texas, USA, © ImechE, 2002, Proc. Instn Mech. Engrs Vol. 216 Pat B: J. Engineering Manufacturing, pp. 1253-1264.					2002
K	D Hu et al., "Modelling and Measuring the Thermal Behavior of the Molten Pool in Closed Loop Controlled Laser-Based Additive Manufacturing", Research Center for Advanced Manufacturing, Southern Methodist University, © ImechE, 2003, Proc. Instn Mech. Engrs Vol. 217 Pat B: J. Engineering Manufacturing (12 pages)					2003
L	Dongming Hue et al., "Sensing, Modeling and Control for Laser-Based Additive Manufactures", International Journal of Machine Tools & Manufacture 43 (2003) pp. 51-60					2003
M						

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE